(b) the funds utilised so far which State are yet to utilise the funds and the reasons therefor and the instructions issued to States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Area of forest cover

1086. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forest Survey of India has of late, prepared a report on the forest cover of India by remote sensing satellites;

(b) if so, when it was last made, the percentage of forest cover in each State determined on the basis of this survey, the comparative corresponding figures brought out by the earlier three surveys, indicating the percentage decline of forest cover and the reasons for the decline; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to improve the forest cover, indicating the safe forest cover in each State and the steps envisaged and targets contemplated under the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Forest Survey of India is assessing forest cover of the country biennially since 1987. Report of last assessment was published on 5th June, 2000 as State of Forest Report, 1999. State-wise details of last four assessments are given in the enclosed statement (*See* below). unsustainable withdrawals to meet the demands of the increasing population is one of the main reasons for marginal decline in forest cover.

(c) National Forest Policy, 1988 envisage 33% of land area under forest/tree cover. Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry, a target of 6.80 lakh hectares of afforestation is contemplated in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Various steps taken for increasing forest cover in the country are:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State Governments/

UT Administrations from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to all States/UTs to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forestland for non-forestry purposes.

(v) A network of protected areas has been established.

(vi) Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a National Forestry Action Programme to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through increased investments in conservation and development of forest resources.

Statement

State-wise forest cover in last four assessments (in sq, km.)

State/UT	1993	1995	1997	1999	Net change	Percentage change in forest cover
Andhra Pradesh	47,256	47,112	43,290	44,229	—3,027	—6.41
Arunachal Pradesh	68,661	68,621	68,602	68,847	186	0.27
Assam	24,508	24,061	23,824	23,688	—820	—3.35
Bihar*	26,587	26,561	4,832	4,830	—2	—0.04
Chhattisgarh*	—	—	56,435	56,693	258	0.46
Delhi	22	26	26	88	66	300.00
Goà	1,250	1,250	1,252	1,251	1	—0.008
Gujarat	12,044	12,320	12,578	12,965	921	7.65
Haryana	513	603	604	964	451	87.91
Himachal Pradesh	12,502	12,501	12,521	13,082	580	4.64
Jammu & Kashmir	20,443	20,433	20,440	20,441	—2	—0.01
Jharkhand*	—	—	21,692	21,644	—48	—0.22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karnataka	32,343	32,382	32,403	32,467	124	0.38
Kerala	10,336	10,336	10,334	10,323	-13	-0.13
Madhya Pradesh*	135,396	135,164	74,760	75,137	377	0.50
Maharashtra	43,859	43,843	46,143	46,672	2,813	6.41
Manipur	17,621	17,558	17,418	17,384	-237	-1.34
Meghalaya	15,769	15,714	15,657	15,633	-136	-0.86
Mizoram	18,697	18,576	18,775	18,338	-359	-1.92
Nagaland	14,348	14,291	14,221	14,164	-184	-1.28
Orissa	47,145	47,107	46,941	47,033	-112	-0.24
Punjab	1,343	1,342	1,387	1,412	69	5.14
Rajasthan	13,099	13,280	13,353	13,871	772	5.89
Sikkim	3,119	3,127	3,129	3,118	-1	-0.03
Tamil Nadu	17,005	17.045	17,064	17,078	73	0.43
Tripura	5,538	5,538	5,546	5,745	207	3.74
Uttaranchal*	—	—	23,243	23,260	17	0.07
Uttar Pradesh*	33,961	33,986	10,751	10,756	5	0.05
West Bengal	8,186	8,276	8,349	8,362	176	2.15
A & N Islands	7,624	7,615	7,613	7,606	-18	-0.24
Chandigarh	5	7	7	7	2	40.00
Dadra & N. Haveli	206	204	204	202	-4	-1.94
Daman & Diu	—	—	3	3	3	
Grand Total	**639,386**	**638,879**	**633,397**	**637,293**	**-2,093**	

* Percentage change in forest cover is of the last two assessments for the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh due to re-organisation.

Phasing out of waste incineration

1087. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Sixth Inter Governmental negotiating Committee on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was held in Geneva recently;